U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY www.cma.army.mil

CMA NEWS | May 2010

CMA PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

as of April 22, 2010:

- Anniston Chemical Activity, Ala.: Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility's specially trained employees have started using the Linear Projectile Mortar Disassembly (LPMD) machine. Fuzes and bursters from thousands of mustard-filled 4.2-inch mortars have been safely removed in a building on Anniston Army Depot. The building has been laid out to resemble an area of the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant under construction at Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD) in Colorado. The Anniston team is collecting LPMD reliability, availability and maintainability data for future disposal operations at PCD. So far, the Anniston team has documented dozens of lessons learned about the LPMD's design, as well as operational and software issues.
- Deseret Chemical Depot, Utah: Deseret Chemical Depot's Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS) workers have completed the Unventilated Monitoring Test (UMT) for the Materiel Treatment Facility (MTF). The MTF will be ready for demolition as soon as the final test reports are approved by CMA. However, the MTF will remain until all CAMDS structures meet UMT requirements. Final closure activities include the demolition of CAMDS structures, which is expected to begin in summer 2011.
- Newport Chemical Depot, Ind.: Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (NECDF) systems contractor notified the government that NECDF physical closure is complete. NECDF workers continue administrative closure activities, focusing on records archiving, property disposition and contracts closeout. CMA is on track to transfer the Newport Chemical Depot (NECD) property to the Department of the Army Base Realignment and Closure on July 18, 2010. On April 22, various state stakeholders visited the NECD for a tour and final update briefing.
- Pine Bluff Chemical Activity, Ark.: Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) employees marked March 28 as the fifth year anniversary for chemical weapons disposal operations. The first Enhanced On-site Container (EONC) containing rockets was safely delivered on March 28, 2005, and the first rocket was successfully processed the next day. The recently scheduled maintenance outage has been completed. During the outage the following activities were conducted: re-bricking of the Liquid Incinerator (LIC), inspection of the Metal Parts Furnace (MPF) and installation of the Heel Transfer System. On April 12, PBCDF resumed mustard ton container processing.
- Umatilla Chemical Depot, Ore.: Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility's (UMCDF) mustard chemical agent and secondary waste trial burn for the LICs and MPF is expected to take up to 60 days. The trial burn will be conducted using mustard ton containers and agent, and will consist of a series of at least three test runs for each specific operating condition. The results of these tests will be used to demonstrate compliance with permit limits, as well as establish final incinerator operating conditions.

PBEDS Project Draws to a Close

'Making chemical weapons history' is a term that many people in the program use when referring to the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency's work in eliminating chemical weapons located at the stockpiles around the nation. The U.S. Army Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project (NSCMP) recently made history when it safely destroyed more than 1,200 munitions at Pine Bluff Arsenal (PBA), Ark. This marked the completion of all non-stockpile materiel declared at the nation's Entry-Into-Force of the Chemical Weapons Convention, the international treaty mandating destruction of the nation's chemical warfare.

Destruction of this large, diverse inventory of recovered chemical warfare materiel required an innovative approach. NSCMP's answer - deploy three Explosive Destruction System (EDS) units to PBA in June 2006 to complete the mission. Each unit was housed in an Environmental Enclosure, and became known collectively as the Pine Bluff Explosive Destruction System (PBEDS).

NSCMP developed the EDS as an alternative to open detonation, providing on-site treatment of recovered chemical warfare materiel. The system's main component, a sealed, stainless steel vessel, contains all the blast, vapor and fragments – protecting the workers, the community and environment. The EDS version 1 can treat up to three munitions at a time, while the EDS version 2 can process up to six munitions at once.

"Our team developed a plan that brought our most current technology to PBA, and safely disposed of the largest inventory of recovered chemical warfare in the nation," said Project Manager for Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel, Laurence Gottschalk. "The experience of our team enabled us to develop an innovative solution to a complex problem."

Three separate Environmental Enclosures were erected to house the transportable Explosive Destruction System units. The facility is known collectively as the Pine Bluff Explosive Destruction System, or PBEDS.

Operators treated five types of chemical munitions, mostly 4.2-inch mortars and German Traktor rockets, in a transportable system that included some new processes and equipment. For example, NSCMP's research and development team had to develop new ideas for treating the large German Traktor rockets, captured after World War II and sent to PBA for study and analysis, with propellant-filled motors still attached.

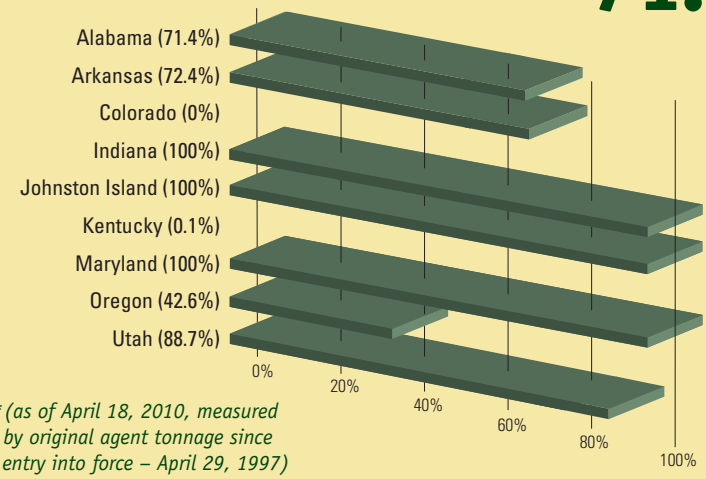
NSCMP worked in conjunction with Sandia National Laboratories to develop the Advanced Fragment Suppression Shield (AFSS). In contrast to the original shield, a solid 500-pound insert, the AFSS consists of a "lining" of 86, one-inch steel bars weighing 17 pounds each, held in a cradle in the EDS. The bars protect the vessel during destruction and can be used indefinitely, with damaged rods individually replaced. This reduces thousands of pounds of solid waste and significantly cuts the cost of each mission.

Another challenge NSCMP overcame was the disposal of lewisite and other arsenical compounds. NSCMP engineers and chemists developed a technology that improves detoxification of lewisite, earning a U.S. National Patent.

"The PBEDS project presented many challenges, but we worked through all of them, achieving a significant milestone," Gottschalk said. "Everyone involved with this project should be proud of their contributions."

CMA - U.S. CHEMICAL AGENT STOCKPILE DESTROYED

71.6%



** (as of April 18, 2010, measured by original agent tonnage since entry into force – April 29, 1997)*

CMA NEWS | May 2010

Newport's Work Force Finds Success with Priority Placement Program

With closure of Newport Chemical Depot (NECD) underway, job security has been at the forefront of everyone's concerns. However, the Department of Defense (DoD) Priority Placement Program (PPP) has been a successful method of finding replacement positions for all U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) employees at NECD who did not exercise the option for either Voluntary Early Retirement Authority (VERA), Voluntary Separation Incentive Payment (VSIP) retirement or VSIP resignation, a total of four employees.

The PPP has been in place since the mid-1960s. As of February 1, 2010, there have been 250,000 placements through the system across the United States, 1,996 of those occurred over the past year. Of those offers made, 92 percent have been accepted.

"I would encourage everyone, if they're interested in continuing federal employment, to register during early PPP and give consideration to their mobility status - particularly if they're in an isolated area where there are no other federal agencies," said Kim Krauer, human capital advisor for CMA. "The more mobile the employee is, the higher the probability that they will get a match," she added. "If your spouse is employed by DoD, he or she may also be eligibile for registration in PPP for positions at the new duty station. In addition, the Army's Spouse Preference Program, a subset of PPP, allows spouses of Army civilian personnel employed by the Federal Government to register for Army jobs at the new duty station."

Of the registrants that were released without receiving offers for reassignments within DoD, 94 percent were registered for positions only within their current commuting area and six percent were registered for positions outside their commuting area.

Once a site commander determines what the early open registration window will be, the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC) visits the site to get all eligible employees registered. Employees should work one-on-one with their CPAC representative to determine their skill sets, which regional zone they can apply for and what series and grade they will be eligible for. Employees can register for up to two grades lower than their current pay grade.

Registrants will receive only one valid job offer and they have two days to accept or decline. If the job is within the same commuting area, employees have 14 days to report to their new position. If it requires a move, they have 30 days to report.

Krauer said that all of the NECD employees who registered outside of their commuting area during early registration had job offers within days of registering. Part of the reason the system worked so well for NECD was that there was only a small pool of registrants in the PPP system, so the chances of placement was higher.

"It's kind of a two-way street. You need to have people registered in the program, but you also need vacancies," Krauer said.

These registrants came from the DoD across the United States. Krauer said she expects the total number of registrants to increase with the implementation of Base Realignment and Closure.

"We are very fortunate to have the PPP as a resource to find new positions for all of our valuable workers at NECD, so that the skills and talent that they have brought to our program can be transferred elsewhere in DoD," said Conrad Whyne, director of CMA. "I am very proud of the work our NECD employees have done to help us achieve our mission and I am glad that we were able to help them move onto their next mission within DoD."

Be Aware it's Tick Season

Along with new growth, warm weather and sunshine, come some not so pleasant attributes of spring. Four kinds of ticks come out in the warmer months and all can carry diseases.

Deer ticks, or blacklegged ticks, – which are known for carrying Lyme disease – are most active in May, June and July. Lyme disease is most prevalent in the mid-Atlantic region and the northeast. Lonestar ticks can be found in the southern states from Texas and Oklahoma to the east coast, and may cause tularemia and southern tick associated rash illness. The American dog tick and the Rocky Mountain wood tick can cause Rocky Mountain spotted fever and tularemia.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends using insect repellant with 20-30 percent DEET on exposed skin and clothing when entering wooded areas or tall grasses in spring and summer.
To avoid tick contact with skin, wear long pants and sleeves and tuck pants legs into socks and shirts into pants when entering these areas. Remove ticks immediately with tweezers and wash the area with soap and warm water.
The CDC recommends throwing ticks out with household trash.

NSCMP Marks Another Successful EDS Operation

Greg Nielson, Explosive Destruction System (EDS) project manager, walks District of Columbia city council representatives and other community leaders through the EDS neutralization process.

Starting April 15, the U.S. Army Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project (NSCMP) began a recovered chemical warfare destruction operation in the Spring Valley neighborhood of Washington, D.C., using its transportable neutralization system, the Explosive Destruction System (EDS). The EDS finished the destruction of 23 items on May 5, 2010, five of which were chemical-filled, that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) recovered at the Formerly Used Defense Site.

The successful operation required extensive coordination with USACE, the District of Columbia and the Environmental Protection Agency and was independently approved by the Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board.

The EDS was designed by the Army specifically to provide on-site treatment of chemical munitions in a safe and environmentally-sound manner. This is the second successful Spring Valley based EDS operation; the first destroyed 15 mustard-filled munitions on-site in 2003.

CMA News is produced by the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency Public Affairs Office.
For more information, call (410) 436-3629 or e-mail hqcmapao@apgea.army.mil.